

**MCL 767.37a. Initial criminal arraignments, setting of bail by closed circuit television; simultaneous communication between accused and court; public access to proceedings; record.**

Sec. 37a. (1) Unless the defendant requests physical presence before the court, a judge or district court magistrate may conduct initial criminal arraignments and the setting of bail by 2-way closed circuit television communication between a court facility and a prison, jail, or other place where a person is imprisoned or detained. A judge or district court magistrate may conduct initial criminal arraignments and the setting of bail on weekends, holidays, or at any time as determined by the court.

(2) A 2-way closed circuit television system used pursuant to this section shall enable the accused and the judge or district court magistrate to see, hear, and communicate with each other simultaneously, and shall enable defense counsel and the prosecuting attorney, if present, to be heard by and to communicate simultaneously with the accused, the judge or district court magistrate, and opposing counsel.

(3) Except as otherwise provided by law, the public shall have access to the courtroom, with the ability to view and hear the proceedings.

(4) If proceedings conducted pursuant to this section are not recorded by an individual certified by the state court administrative office, the court shall record and maintain an original audiovisual recording of the entire proceedings. A recording made pursuant to this subsection shall become part of the court record.

(5) This act does not prohibit the use of 2-way closed circuit television for arraignments on the information, criminal pretrial hearings, criminal pleas, sentencing hearings for misdemeanor violations cognizable in the district court, show cause hearings, or other criminal proceedings, to the extent the Michigan supreme court has authorized that use.

P.A. 1927, No. 175, c. VII, § 37a, added by P.A. 1994, No. 229, § 1, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1994.